

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The language in claims 6, 13, and 17 has been corrected in response to the objection and the §112 rejection by non-limiting amendments.

Claims 1-19 were rejected as being obvious over the combination of Godde et al. in view of Piegay. New independent claims 20 and 21 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable from the cited art.

As best understood, U.S. Patent No. 6,848,703 B2 (Godde) discloses a platform 61 for raising the elements of a skibinding and being screwed directly onto the upper surface of the ski. The platform comprises four different anchoring zones. Two first anchoring zones allow a fixed positioning of the platform relative to the ski. Two second anchoring zones allow a positioning with sliding of the platform 61 relative to the ski. These anchoring zones consist of elongate holes.

U.S. Patent No. 5,836,604 (Piegay) discloses a ski comprising a monobloc piece 14, 15 comprising lower elements arranged inside the body of the ski and each bearing on one edge 9 and comprising an intermediate connecting part 16 arranged inside the body of the ski and protruding from the upper face of the ski. An essential characteristic of this conception is that the monobloc piece is connected to the edges 9 of the ski.

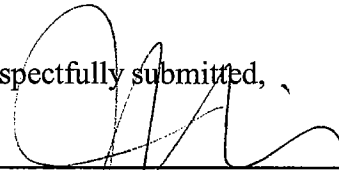
Although the core of Piegay's ski is made of foam, the foam core does not hold the monobloc element within the ski. If the sliding board shown by Godde were modified with the fastening elements as taught by Piegay, the resulting construction would comprise merely a platform on the upper surface of the ski being fastened to the ski body by a monobloc element in the manner as shown by Piegay.

The invention of claims 20 and 21 differs from such a construction in that, as recited in claim 20, the anchoring elements of the fastening elements are held exclusively by the foaming and hardening of the foamed core or, as recited in claim 21, are held in separate parts integrated into the foamed core by the foaming and hardening of the foam of the core. Such structures are not seen in the references. Allowance of claims 1-7 and 10-22 is respectfully requested.

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